

REMARKS

Claims 1-41, 61, 63, 65 and 67 are currently pending in this application. Claims 42-60, 62, 64, 66 and 68-75 are cancelled in view of an earlier restriction requirement. Claim 1 is amended to indicate that the Ni or Pd polymerization catalyst is ligated to a modentate ligand. No new matter is added by this amendment. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, and specifically at page 21, paragraph [0074] which lists specific examples of modentate ligands; page 21, paragraphs [0075] – [0076], in which Formulas IX and X specify modentate ligands; the phosphine modentate ligands listed in paragraph [0081]; and the catalysts shown in the examples.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-41, 61, 63, 65 and 67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,372,869 to Arthur et al. (hereinafter "Arthur"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it may pertain to amended claim 1.

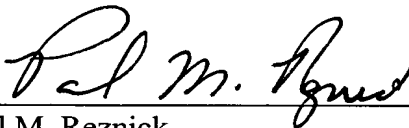
As amended, claim 1 recites a method of polymerizing poly(cyclic) olefin monomers in the presence of a polymerization catalyst containing Ni and/or Pd ligated by a modentate ligand. Arthur, on the other hand, is only directed to "a process for the polymerization of a polymerizable olefin using as a polymerization catalyst a complex of a bidentate ligand of a metal selected from the group consisting of nickel, iron, and cobalt" (column 3, lines 48-51) and therefore does not disclose or even suggest this element of the instant claim 1. Therefore, Arthur does not anticipate claim 1. Pending claims 2-41, 61, 63, 65 and 67 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1 and thus are also not anticipated. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 1-41, 61, 63, 65 and 67.

Further, as Arthur does not teach or suggest use of Ni and/or Pd catalysts bound to modentate ligands, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-41, 61, 63, 65 and 67 cannot be obvious in view of this reference.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned if anything other than the requested allowance of the pending claims is contemplated.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 

Paul M. Reznick
Registration No. 33,059
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1845
Telephone: (412) 471-8815
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com